

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of November 6, 2012 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Jennifer Kaufman
(staff), Ed Hall, Craig Stearns, guests.

2. Minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting were approved.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Ed Hall and Craig Stearns had comments and questions about the proposed farmland leasing process and policy.

Old Business

4. *Farmland Leasing* The committee reviewed and approved a memorandum to the Town Council concerning leases of Town-owned agricultural lands. The Council will consider the memo's recommendations at their November 13 meeting.

New Business

5. *Meetings with farmers* The committee considered two potential meetings: the annual winter meeting with farmers and input to the HUD contractor concerning an agricultural strategy for the Town. Jennifer recommended that these two items be combined in a meeting in mid-to-late February (date to be determined). Next year, a Steering Committee and an Agricultural Task Force will be appointed to gather information and provide recommendations to the consultants.

6. *Disaster/fire outreach* The committee also discussed outreach to farmers about the upcoming Ct. Farm Bureau disaster preparedness manual and about offering Fire Dept. visits to familiarize themselves with a farm's layout in case of fire.

7. *Public outreach* The committee discussed several outlets for sharing the committee's past and ongoing projects with the public.

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:40. The next regular meeting is on December 4.

